

Author:

Title: The Grading of canning crops in Pennsylvania

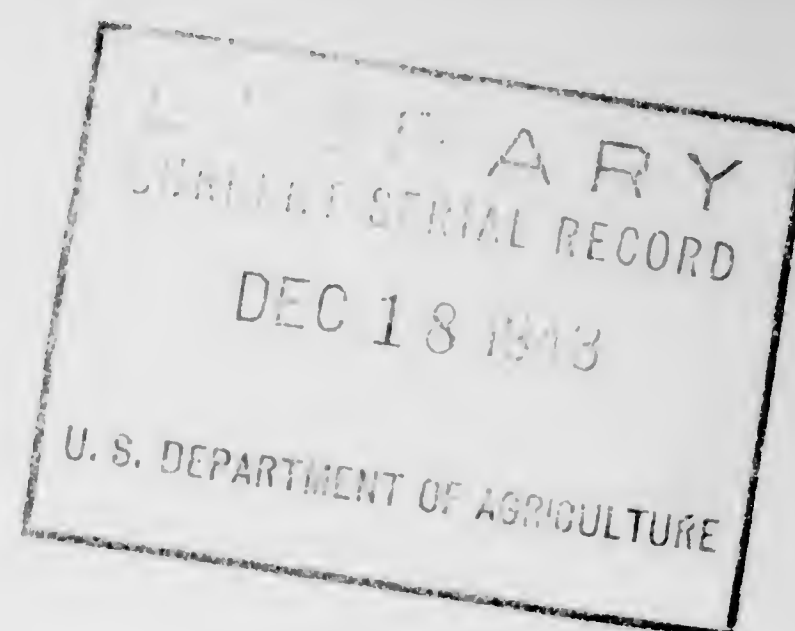
Place of Publication: Harrisburg

Copyright Date: 1940

Master Negative Storage Number: MNS# PSt SNPaAg084.17

280.39
P38
Cop. 1

PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE
HARRISBURG



THE GRADING OF CANNING CROPS
IN
P E N N S Y L V A N I A
1940
SEASON

JOHN H. LIGHT
SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE

AMV. '60

-2-
THE GRADING OF CANNING CROPS IN PENNSYLVANIA

D. M. JAMES

This annual report of the cannery grading service of the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture is issued so that growers, processors or others interested in the canning industry may be advised of the progress and present status of grading in the state and also of average grades, prices and yields of principal canning crops.

The production of farm products for canning or processing has become the fastest growing agricultural enterprise in the Commonwealth. As recently as 1924 vegetables for canning were grown on only 7,740 acres of Pennsylvania farm lands. Compared with the 41,040 acres devoted to canning crops in 1940 this is an increase of 425% in 16 years or at a rate in excess of 100% every four year. In addition to this substantial increase in vegetable canning, the processing of apples, apple products, cherries, mushrooms (85% of all canned in the United States) and many other specialty products such as soups, condiments, jellies, preserves, etc., has also increased rapidly in recent years. That this growth in the production of canning crops may be expected to continue is evidenced by recent cannery expansions by numerous new locations for cannery and quick freeze operations recently acquired or proposed and by the increasing purchase of canning crops of Pennsylvania growers from out-of-state processors.

During 1940, for the first year since 1933, the volume of canning crops inspected did not increase over the preceding year. However, grading actually showed an increase in 1940 over 1939 since inspectors were employed 2071 days at 55 inspection points compared with 1978 days worked at 51 points in 1939. Also acreages inspected in 1940 were increased over 1939 but yields declined

sharply and therefore volume inspected was also less than in 1939. The 1941 season indicates a possible increase of 20% in inspector locations over 1940, principal increases being in men required for the inspection of peas, corn, and tomatoes.

The grading service for canning products in Pennsylvania has been carried on as a state supervised project. However much valuable assistance has been received from the United States Department of Agriculture in the formulation and interpretation of grades, in supplying trained inspectors and in other ways. This assistance, which has aided materially in the proper functioning and development of this work since its inception in 1927, has been greatly appreciated.

The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture also takes this means of expressing appreciation to growers and processors through whose cooperation this work has progressed.

CANNED CROPS INSPECTED BY PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE 1929 - 1940

THOUSAND POUNDS

	1940	1939	1938	1937	1936	1935	1934	1933	1932	1931	1930	1929
TOTALS	219,729	269,931	193,600	161,141	135,103	102,734	74,920	46,716	63,697	53,454	43,793	13,438
APPLES	70,363	73,719	55,319	64,218	58,754	43,233	35,553	22,983	41,972	32,114	36,453	3,956
BERRIES	375	295	73	--	344	--	12	19	--	--	--	--
CHERRIES	7,423	7,356	4,166	7,707	4,934	4,997	2,051	307	657	2,479	2,710	--
CORN	13,306	15,593	13,421	5,360	1,620	1,193	--	--	--	--	--	--
GRAPES	13,904	16,212	10,540	10,680	10,540	9,109	6,397	3,400	3,914	5,176	3,005	1,302
LIMA BEANS	64	413	273	159	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
PEAS	5,125	2,031	4,772	3,705	1,009	1,044	--	--	--	--	--	--
PEACHES	520	2,093	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
PLUMS	--	--	21	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
SNAPE BEANS	502	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	112	320	132	373
TOMATOES	108,147	143,159	104,565	69,192	57,952	38,153	30,907	20,007	21,694	13,364	1,493	2,357

Bulk Apple Grading - 1940

1940 marked the eleventh consecutive year that most of the Pennsylvania canning apples were purchased on the basis of the Federal grades under State inspection. Apples graded in 1940 totaled 70,363,000 pounds compared with 78,719,000 pounds in 1939. The average grades for the season were 64% U. S. No. 1 (canning grades), 28% U.S. No. 2 and 8% ciders.

Inspectors were located at the following receiving points to inspect bulk apples in 1940:

Adams Apple Products Corporation	Aspers
Cooperative Fruit Growers of Adams Co.	Aspers
Cooperative Fruit Growers of Adams Co.	Seven Stars
Knouse Corporation	Peach Glen
Knouse Corporation	Chambersburg
C. H. Musselman Company	Biglerville
C. H. Musselman Company	Gardners

Cherry Grading - 1940

The 7,423,000 pounds of cherries graded in 1940 exceeded the 1939 total by 67,000 pounds but did not surpass the record year of 1937 when 7,707,000 pounds were inspected. Average grades for the season were 90% U. S. No. 1 and 10% culls compared with 91% and 9% in 1939. Sour cherries were received at five plants and sweet cherries at four stations. Inspectors were located at the following receiving points in 1940:

George W. Haxton & Son	North East
Keystone Cooperative Association	North East
C. H. Musselman Company	Biglerville
Sunshine Packing Company	North East
Todkill & Chapman	North East

Pea Grading - 1940

The grading of peas for canning reached a new all-time high in 1940 when 5,125,000 pounds were graded compared with the previous high of 4,772,000 pounds graded in 1938. Two plants which purchased on the basis of Fancy, Extra Standard, Standard and Sub-standard averaged 69% Fancy, 21% Extra Standard, 8% Standard and 2% Sub-standard. Two plants which purchased on the basis of Extra

Standard, Standard and Sub-standard averaged 50% Extra Standard, 39% Standard and 11% Sub-standard. The average price paid for graded peas in 1940 was \$55.63 a ton compared with an average price of \$53.65 a ton for peas purchased "flat-rate". Inspectors were located at the following receiving points in the State during 1940:

Bloomsburg Packing Company	Bloomsburg
Columbia County Canning Company	Bloomsburg
B. F. Shriver Company	Littlestown
D. E. Winebrenner Company	Hanover

Grape Grading - 1940

During 1940 13,904,500 pounds of grapes for processing were purchased in Pennsylvania on the basis of the U. S. grades under State inspection, compared to 16,213,000 pounds in 1939. Three plants used this grading service as follows:

Keystone Cooperative Association	North East
Sunshine Packing Corporation	North East
Welch Grape Juice Company	North East

Corn Grading - 1940

The volume of corn graded at four Pennsylvania canneries totaled 13,306,000 in 1940. The average grades were 90% U.S. No. 1, maturity A, 4% U. S. No. 1-B and 6% culls. The average state price for corn purchased on the basis of grades was \$11.95 compared with the State average for corn purchased "flat rate" of \$10.09 per ton. Inspectors were located at the following points to inspect corn in 1940:

Bloomsburg Packing Company	Bloomsburg
George T. Smith	New Park
James T. Smith	Fawn Grove
C. G. Summers Co.	New Freedom

Tomato Grading - 1940

The largest tomato canning acreage ever grown in the State did not produce the largest yield in 1940 because of adverse weather conditions. Likewise the largest acreage purchased under official grades did not yield the largest inspected tonnage. With this decline in yield the quality also fell off to 60% U. S. No. 1 stock, the lowest since 1937, when the percentage of U. S. No. 1's was the same as in 1940. This was a drop of 8% from the 1939 average, the second highest since state grading of tomatoes was begun in 1927.

The average price for tomatoes purchased on the basis of the U. S. grades was \$ 14.88 in 1940, compared with an average flat rate or ungraded price of \$12.52.

Tomatoes were inspected at twenty-six inspection stations in the State during 1940, compared with twenty-two in 1939. Inspector days of work increased from 1042 in 1939 to 1371 in 1940.

A comparison of average quality since 1928 is shown below.

CLASSIFICATION OF GRADED TOMATOES IN PENNSYLVANIA
1928 to 1940 INCLUSIVE

	1940	1939	1938	1937	1936	1935	1934	1933	1932	1931	1930	1929	1928
U. S.													
No. 1	60	68	65	60	76	61	61	51	52	46	42	54	41
U. S.													
No. 2	37	30	32	36	22	35	34	43	43	45	54	42	51
Culls	3	2	3	4	2	4	5	6	5	9	4	4	8

A comparison of grades and prices of tomatoes purchased on the basis of U. S. Grades in 1940.

	WEIGHTED AVERAGE PERCENT			PRICES		
	U.S. NO. 1	U.S. NO. 2	CULLS	U.S. NO. 1	U.S. NO. 2	Aver. Price
Cannery A	69	30	1	17.00	9.00	14.43
" B	63	35	2	17.00	10.00	14.21
" C	59	39	2	17.00	10.00	13.93
" D *	54	43	3	16.00	9.00	12.57
" E	63	35	2	16.00	9.00	13.23
" F *	48	50	2	17.00	8.00	12.16
" G	64	30	6	16.00	10.00	13.24
" H *	54	40	6	16.00	10.00	12.64
" I *	56	42	2	17.00	9.00	13.72
" J *	60	34	6	17.00	9.00	13.29
" K *	51	44	5	18.00	8.00	12.73
" L *	61	34	5	18.00	8.00	13.70
" M	61	38	1	17.00	8.00	13.41
" N *	53	43	4	16.00	10.00	12.78
" O *	59	36	5	18.00	8.00	13.50
" P	66	32	2	17.00	10.00	14.42
" Q	73	26	1	16.00	8.00	13.76
" R	69	29	2	18.00	8.00	14.74
" S	64	34	2	17.00	9.00	13.94
" T	62	35	3	17.00	10.00	14.04
" U	75	22	3	17.50	11.50	15.66
" V *	44	52	4	17.00	8.00	11.64
" W *	56	39	5	16.00	9.00	12.46
" X *	43	50	7	Co-op Pool or Flat Rate		
" Y	62	35	3	Co-op Pool or Flat Rate		
" Z *	45	51	4	Co-op Pool or Flat Rate		
STATE AVERAGE	60	37	3	--	--	14.88**

* "Whole Tomatoes" grades used--not marked Strained Products grades.
 ** Includes average prices delivered to New Jersey Canneries on graded basis.

The average grades for tomatoes purchased under the Strained Products Grades were 65% U.S. No. 1, 33% U.S. No. 2 and 2% culls. For those purchasing under the "Whole Tomato" grades, the averages were 53%, 43% and 4%.

STATE INSPECTORS WERE LOCATED AT THE FOLLOWING
 TOMATO RECEIVING POINTS IN 1940.

Adams Apple Products Corp.	Aspers, Pa.
Bloomsburg Packing Co.	Bloomsburg, Pa.
Burgoon & Yingling	Gettysburg, Pa.
Campbell Soup Co.	Lancaster & Lebanon, Pa.
Chef Boiardi Co.	Milton, Pa.
Gibbs & Co.	Millersville & Quarryville, Pa.

Greencastle Packing Co.	Greencastle, Pa.
Hanover Canning Co.	Hanover, Pa.
H. J. Heinz Co.	Chambersburg & Florin, Pa.
Keystone Co-op Grape Ass'n.	North East, Pa.
Landreth Seed Co.	Bristol, Pa.
Lancaster County Pkg. Co.	Lititz, Pa.
Lineboro Canning Co.	Lineboro, Md.
C. H. Musselman Co.	Biglerville, Pa.
Myers Canning Co.	Spring Grove, Pa.
Saulsbury Canning Co.	Belleville & Sells Station, Pa.
Shenk & Bowman	Newville & McAllisterville, Pa.
G. Bartol Silver	Christiana, Pa.
Chas. G. Summers Jr., Inc.	New Freedom, Pa.
Welch Grape Juice Co.	North East, Pa.
D. E. Winebrenner Co.	Hanover, Pa.

Grading of Berries, Beans & Peaches - 1940

In recent years, along with the increased volume of cannery products graded, has come the grading of additional crops, these being principally raspberries, currants, strawberries, snap beans, lima beans and peaches. The grading of these small fruits, beans and peaches is expected to increase in the near future, principally because of the increased demand for these products for quick-freezing.

Supervision and Cost of Cannery Products Inspection

This is a self-supporting service under State supervision. Federal grades adopted as official for use in Pennsylvania are used as far as possible. Strict adherence to the grade specifications is practiced except where canners use the Federal grades with certain additional tolerances. All inspectors are trained and licensed by the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. The charge for the service in 1940 was \$45.00 a week, of which \$3.00 covered State Expenses of supervision, the balance \$ 42.00 being used to meet the actual expenses of the Service, including wages, compensation insurance, inspectors' reporting expenses, etc.

Additional copies of this report or further information regarding this service will be furnished upon request from the Bureau of Markets, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

The following table is compiled from reports of the U.S. Agricultural Marketing Service and shows acreage, yield per ton, price per ton, and Pennsylvania's rank of four cannery products.

Pennsylvania Canning Crop Acreage, Yield and Price Per Ton with Comparisons

CROP & RANK	10-yr. aver.			10-yr. aver.			10-yr. aver.		
	1929-38	1939	1940	1929-38	1939	1940	1929-38	1939	1940
GREEN & WAX BEANS	2420	2160	2490	1.3	1.8	1.3	41.80	34.60	34.00
PENNSYLVANIA RANK	6th	7th	5th	8th	8th	12th	13th	16th	15th
SWEET CORN	6790	10,300	10,300	1.7	1.8	2.2	12.00	10.60	10.60
PENNSYLVANIA RANK	10th	9th	9th	15th	16th	11th	6th	9th	6th
PEAS	3450	5900	7000	.9	.6	1.2	54.00	46.40	54.50
PENNSYLVANIA RANK	12th	11th	11th	5th	14th	1st	4th	1st	3rd
TOMATOES	9100	17,400	18,700	4.5	7.4	5.7	13.90	14.30	13.40
PENNSYLVANIA RANK	11th	7th	7th	8th	5th	7th	3rd	2nd	2nd
TOTAL PENNIA. ACREAGE	22,310	33,260	41,040						
PENNSYLVANIA RANK	14th	10th	11th						
							TOTAL CASH RETURN		
							THESE PENNIA. CANNING CROPS		
							\$933,000	\$2,236,000	\$2,390,360

END OF YEAR